

WV Developmental Disabilities Council

Meeting Minutes

Stonewall Resort

July 25, 2006

Members Present: Jerri Stephens, Clint Martin, Bob Cain, Richard Covert, Ronald Dean, Kim Farley, Ginny Gattlieb, Sandy Haberbosch, Mary Ann Jenkins, Frank Kirkland, Jeff Marr, Pat Moss, Libby Nester, Karen Robinson, Karen Ruddell, Parul Shah, Julie Shelton, Christina Smith, John David Smith, Kevin Smith, Cheryl Vega, Jennifer Waybright, Janice Holland.

Members Absent: Christy Bishop, Christy Black, Craig Curtis, Jane McCallister, LuAnn Summers, Pat Winston, Ulissa Dowell, Terri Rodighiero

Staff Present: Steve Wiseman, Jan Lilly-Stewart, Jim Cremeans, Linda Higgs, Betsy Southall

Guests: Jeannie Elkins, Zila Schemel

Welcome, Introductions and Announcements:

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 am by Jerri Stephens.

Members of the Council introduced themselves.

Kim read the Mission Statement of the Council.

Jerri announced that the WV Autism Training Center will hold a workshop “Strategies for a Complex World” in August. Steve stated that Council staff will send Members a list of upcoming events in an email (see attached).

Steve announced that staff will need a commitment soon from Members who wish to attend the NACDD conference in Pittsburgh in October. Members who are interested in attending should speak with Council staff.

Public Comments:

No comments offered.

Approval of the April 25, 2006 Minutes:

Cheryl made and Kevin seconded a motion to accept the Minutes as written.

Motion Carried.

New Business:

Approval of Budget: Steve reviewed the proposed budget for fiscal year 2007. An outline of the proposed budget was included in the Council packets.

Frank asked why there were no longer funds allotted for NACDD dues. Steve stated that the dues are now being paid through a grant.

Kevin made and Christina seconded a motion to approve the proposed budget for fiscal year 2007 (see attached).

Approval of Designated Stipends: Libby gave an overview of the organizations that requested designated stipends from the Council. She reviewed the workgroups funding recommendations (passed out during meeting).

Sandy made and Bob seconded a motion to accept the funding recommendations from the designated stipends workgroup as presented (see attached).

Motion carried. Christina abstained since she works for one of the organizations.

Approval of Five Year State Plan: Jim gave a brief presentation which reviewed the process leading up to the creation of the new 5 Year State Plan which will guide the activities of the Council from 2007 – 2011. The Plan was drafted by a workgroup based upon the results of statewide public

forums and the unmet needs surveys. Jim thanked the members of the workgroup for their hard work.

Jim outlined the Areas of Emphasis which the Council chose, as a group, at the April 25, 2006 meeting. He said that the new plan will focus on Quality Assurance, Employment, Education and Recreation.

Clarice began a discussion regarding the collection and management of the data that would need to be collected and managed. She suggested investigating software which could assist in that endeavor. Frank pointed out that most of the data needed would be available from outside agencies.

Christina began a discussion on the unmet needs survey. Jim stated that there were 187 responses to the survey and offered to share the report with her.

Jim said that there is still a lot of work to do once the Plan is submitted to the ADD. He said that there will be an opportunity to modify and tailor the Plan each year.

Karen Robinson made and Jennifer seconded a motion to accept the Five Year State Plan.

Motion carried.

Approval of Renewal Grant Applications:

Arc of the MOV - Pat gave an overview of the grant proposal. She said it was well written and ambitious. The review group recommended continuing to fund the project with consideration be given to providing additional funds than the agency requested. The workgroup recommends funding at \$50,000 with the stipulation that the agency expand slowly so that it does not over-extend itself.

Janice made and Kevin seconded a motion to fund the continuation grant at \$50,000.

Motion carried. Christina abstained because of her involvement with Arc of Wood County.

Fair Shake Network – Bob gave an overview of the renewal application for the Fair Shake Network. He said that the organization provides good and relevant information and is valuable for networking individuals with developmental and other disabilities. The organization is active in working with the legislature. The workgroup recommends funding the renewal application in the amount of \$25,000 with the stipulation that the organization's total budget be reviewed with possible future reductions contingent upon outside funding.

Sandy made and Bob seconded the motion to fund the renewal application for the Fair Shake Network in the amount of \$25,000.

Motion carried.

MURC – Linda gave an overview of the renewal application from Marshall University Research Corporation Pediatric Clinic "CARES" project. She said that good progress had been made in meeting the milestones although there has been a problem getting the program going at WVU. The organization is now working on maintaining the project. The workgroup decided that the project is in a "maintenance mode" and should be funded for its third year at \$35,000 which is a \$15,000 reduction from the requested funds. The workgroup would like to see continued negotiation with the WVU clinic for replication of the program. The project is to get the data necessary to show how the approach can save hospitals and the State by reducing ER visits.

John David asked if the project also addressed the quality of life for the individual being supported and not just reduction of costs. Linda said that she has spoken with individuals whose children participate in the program, and the families feel that the project does improve the quality of care the children receive.

Libby made and Clint seconded a motion to fund the MURC renewal application in the amount of \$35,000.

Motion carried.

REM Community Employment & Transition Training – Jim gave an overview of the school to work program. REM would like to greatly expand the project and requested \$70,161.90. The workgroup recommends funding the program for 9 months in the amount of \$16,900 to re-focus the grant and strengthen the programs with Simonton Windows in Ritchie County and St. Joe Hospital in Parkersburg to complete initial work projects.

Christina asked if REM would be going to local high schools in Ritchie and Wood Counties. She also asked if the manuals were for high school teachers or local businesses. Jim said that the program does target local schools and the manual would be sent to the area school-to-work programs and a discussion ensued.

Clarice stated that one of the reasons that the funding amount was reduced was because the organization was asking for funds to provide services and supports which should already be provided by existing agencies.

Frank asked if the program is open to any student with disabilities or if the program is limited to those individuals already served by REM. Jim said that the program is open to any individual in the school system and a discussion ensued.

Sandy made and Jeff seconded a motion to fund the REM renewal application for 9 months in the amount of \$16,900 to complete the project objectives as described.

Motion carried.

Mountain State Center For Independent Living – Steve gave an overview of the Mountain State grant. This grant manages the funds for Council activities such as Council meetings, trainings, and designated stipends. The Executive Committee recommends funding the grant in the amount of \$124,300.

Janice made and Sandy seconded a motion to fund the Mountain State Center For Independent Living in the amount of \$124,300.

Motion carried.

Community Access – Steve reviewed the Community Access grant which manages the funds for two staff positions, Partners in Policymaking, On the Outside project and other specialized trainings. The Executive Committee recommends funding the grant at the FY2006 level in the amount of \$183,000.

Pat made and Kevin seconded a motion to fund the Community Access grant in the amount of \$183,000.

Motion carried.

Approval of New Grant Applications:

ARC of the MOV – Cheryl gave an overview of the *Inclusion for All* project. The project addresses the Recreation priority area. It includes inclusion in faith communities and social activities. An “Inclusion Guide” will be produced. The workgroup liked the fact that the DDC wasn’t the only funding source, and it proposed strong collaboration. They felt that the project was very ambitious. The group recommends funding the project at \$21,376.00.

Sandy made and Jeff seconded a motion to fund the *Inclusion for All* project at \$21,376.00.

Motion carried. Christina Smith abstained because of involvement with the ARC of MOV.

Clyde’s Karate – Cheryl gave an overview of the *Special Needs Soo Bahk Do* project. The project addresses recreation and funds will provide scholarships to students with developmental disabilities and train instructors in working with students with developmental disabilities. Council funds will be matched 50/50 per scholarship. The coordinator will develop a DVD to guide other martial arts schools on including people with developmental and other disabilities. The workgroup suggested the word “Adaptive” be substituted for “Special Needs.” The group recommends scaling the project down to \$20,000 and provide fewer scholarships. Staff will work with the grantee to develop a DVD and other materials.

John David began a discussion regarding the creation and distribution of DVDs.

Christina and Kim began a discussion regarding the specifics of the karate program. Janice and Pat pointed out that the purpose is not to get individuals into a “belt” status in karate, but rather providing accommodations and inclusion into a community program.

Ron made and Jeff seconded a motion to fund the *Special Needs Soo Bahk Do* project at \$20,000 as described.

Motion carried.

Dat2a – Kevin gave an overview of the *WV Self-Advocates* project. The project would create a network of WV Self-Advocates and would pick up on a previously failed attempt. The grantee has many years of experience in the disability field and a long and successful history of developing groups in other states. The workgroup suggests changing some timelines and objectives. The workgroup suggests spending the first 6 months doing training and technical assistance before addressing other goals. The workgroup suggests funding the project at \$48,500.00.

Karen Ruddle began a discussion on the grant term and the funding specifics. Steve said that the grant is projected to be 3 years and gave an overview of the project specifics. He said the one of the main project goals would be to help structure the existing self-advocacy groups.

Bob made and Kim seconded a motion to fund the *WV Self-Advocates* project in the amount of \$48,500.00.

Motion carried.

Easter Seals Inclusive Child Care Update – Jim gave an update on the Easter Seal’s Inclusive Child Care project. He said that Council staff learned that the grantee wants to continue the grant into FY 2007. Easter Seals personnel said they never received the renewal packet. Jim reviewed the project’s goals and objectives to develop training material, and a report and study with regard to inclusive child care. He said that the project has been very slow to get started and that they have just begun developing the

curriculum and Council staff has not had an opportunity to review the proposed curriculum.

Steve said that the Council needs to make a decision regarding the continuation of the grant. He said that the Executive Committee feels the grantee has the capacity to deliver the product. The Executive Committee would like to have the authority over the remaining funds in the original allotment and place the project on a corrective action plan to meet the original goals and objectives of the project. It would be the equivalent of a no cost extension.

Many Council members raised concerns about the lack of effort in the project thus far and a discussion ensued.

Kevin made and Sandy seconded a motion to end funding of the Inclusive Child Care project on September 30, 2006.

Richard said that a 90 day extension wouldn't cost the Council anything and the Council could get the product it wanted and a discussion ensued.

A hand vote was conducted. 15 in favor, 5 opposed. Motion carried.

State and Federal Issues

Family Support Project and the MR/DD Waiver - Frank gave an update on the Family Support Program. He said that the Family Support Council met last month in Martinsburg. The Council revised and approved By-laws. The DD Division is finalizing interviews for a project coordinator. There are three finalists for the position. The goal is still on getting the state Family Support Council revitalized.

Frank stated that the MR/DD Waiver Manual has been approved. The new Manual will be in effect on October 1st. The first round of trainings by APS Healthcare is currently underway. They are still waiting on final rates from the Bureau of Medical Services.

Kevin asked if individuals could have access to the new manual. Frank stated that it was on the web, individuals could call the DD Division or their service provider for a hard copy.

Frank announced that John Bianconni is the new Commissioner for BHHF.

Linda asked if there are new MR/DD slots. Frank stated that people had filled 167 slots in July. There are now approximately 90 individuals on the wait list.

Sandy asked how individuals can lose their waiver services. Frank stated that there is an eligibility review process that occurs every year. If it is determined that he or she is no longer eligible, they lose waiver services. A discussion began regarding the eligibility criteria and the appeal process.

Clarice verified that APS Healthcare would begin doing assessments on August 1st. A discussion ensued regarding the role of APS Healthcare. Frank encouraged individuals to contact APS Healthcare directly for more information on their role in the budgeting process and the trainings currently taking place around the state.

TA Institute in Baltimore – Clint discussed his experiences at the National Technical Assistance Institute held in Baltimore in June. He said it was a very positive experience from which he gained a lot. Clint made a presentation in one session on how being a Council Member aided his advocacy skills. He said he particularly enjoyed the visits to Capitol Hill.

Disability Caucus – Parul, Kevin, Jeannie, Zila and Clint discussed their experiences at the 2007 Disability Caucus held in July at the Charleston Marriot. The Caucus is sponsored by the SILC and held every 2 years. Parul said that this year's Caucus included a mock legislature conducted by Delegate Kiss, a march to the Capitol, role playing exercises and national speakers.

Zila received an award for her work with the Youth Caucus on disability awareness week. Clint's personal assistant, Lee Ditty, was awarded the Personal Assistant of the Year Award.

EIICC Retreat – Jim discussed his experiences at the WV Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council retreat. He said that the Council is charged to assist in the ongoing improvement of the Birth To Three program.

Money Follows the Person – Jan discussed the Money Follows the Person Resolution. She said that the LOCHHRA is reviewing the resolution. Tina Maher, Olmstead Coordinator, gave a presentation in June and the Legislators seem very interested in the program. The 2nd meeting of the commission was on July 23, 2006, where John Bianconni presented DHHR's position on Money Follows the Person.

Steve stated that the Council comments on the MR/DD Waiver Manual have still not been addressed by the DHHR.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.